

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form
U.S. 301 South Corridor Transportation Study

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name: (indicate preferred name)

historic Billingsley/Latimer Property

and/or common Nelson Latimer Property

2. Location:

street & number 3785 Middletown Road ☐ not for publication

city, town White Plains ☒ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Charles

3. Classification:

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	

4. Owner of Property: (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Nelson G. Latimer

street & number 3785 Middletown Road

telephone no.: (301) 645-5974

city, town White Plains

state and zip code MD 20695

5. Location of Legal Description

Land Records Office of Charles County

liber 134

street & number 101 Catalpa Drive

folio 6

city, town La Plata

state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository/survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No.: CH-243 (PACS B7)

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Resource Count: 4

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Billingsley/Latimer Property consists of a 1½-story cottage with Bungalow features, a 1-story wood shed, and two 1-story sheds. The property is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Billingsley Road and Middletown Road in the White Plains vicinity, Charles County.

The cottage has a side-gable roof, covered with asphalt shingles. The structure is clad in aluminum siding and has a concrete foundation. Two brick chimneys are located at the gable ends. An interior chimney at the east end and an exterior chimney at the west end.

The south, or front elevation has a 1-story, full-width porch which has been enclosed. The enclosure has a raised brick base and vinyl siding. Within the enclosed porch is a central entry, a 4-part bow window and three, 1/1 double-hung windows. The second story has a front-gable dormer with exposed rafter ends. A paired 1/1 double-hung window is located in the dormer.

The west elevation has one 1/1 double-hung window in the enclosed front porch and two additions project from this elevation. The first addition is a 1-story hipped roof structure with exposed rafter ends and 3/1 double-hung sash. The second addition is a 1-story shed roof addition, which projects north of the north elevation. Two 1/1 double-hung windows are located in the gable end of the house structure.

The north, or rear elevation has two 1-story additions. The first is the shed roof addition which also projects from the west elevation. The second is adjacent to the first and includes a 3/4-width covered porch with a hipped roof. The first story of the original section of the house has one 1/1 double-hung window. The second story has a front-gable dormer with exposed rafter ends and a single 1/1 double-hung window.

The east elevation has one 1/1 double-hung window in the enclosed front porch. There are two 1/1 double-hung windows on the first story and in the gable end.

There are three outbuildings associated with this property. The first is a side-gable structure, used as a wood shed. According to the property owner, this structure was constructed circa 1800. It is of heavy timber construction and was originally located at approximately the current location of the porch at the rear of the house. The structure, which now has asbestos siding and a metal roof, originally had no foundation. When the current residence was constructed in 1928, the shed was placed on a concrete slab at its current location northwest of the house.

Two additional outbuildings are located west of the wood shed. These shed roof structures were constructed circa 1930 by the current property owner. They have exposed rafter ends and are clad in asbestos siding.

The Billingsley/Latimer Property is located at the busy crossroads of Billingsley Road and Middletown Road. Although there is considerable traffic in the area, the property and its surroundings remain relatively rural in character.

8. Significance

Survey No.: CH-243 (PACS B7)

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archaeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communication	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates 1928

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or
Applicable Exceptions: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

According to Nelson Latimer, the property owner, and Charles County Tax Records, this property, which included approximately 54.6 hectare (135 acres) of land, was purchased by Carrie and William Billingsley in 1903. At that time, a residence was on the property which was reportedly 100 years old and also served as the post office for the crossroads community known as Middletown. The post office could not bear the name "Middletown", as another community by that name already existed in Maryland; consequently, the post office became known as "Billingsley", after the owners of the property. The road which passes south of the property subsequently became known as Billingsley Road. According to Mr. Latimer, he and Mr. Billingsley (his father-in-law) built the current residence in 1928, when the original house became too dilapidated. The original structure was demolished and the extant cottage was built from lumber taken from the woods to the north of the property. Mr. Latimer moved into the original house at the time of his marriage to Mr. Billingsley's daughter in the 1920s. The parcel was reduced to 10.5 hectare (26 acres) in 1954, when the property was transferred to Nelson and Rachel Latimer through the division of the estate of Carrie and William Billingsley (parents to Rachel Latimer). Rachel and Nelson Latimer deeded the house and .24 hectare (.61 acres) of land to their son and his wife, Guy and Janice Latimer in 1958. The Latimers remain the owners of the property and Nelson Latimer continues to reside at the property.

The Billingsley/Latimer Property is located in southern Maryland, in northern Charles County. The Native American inhabitants of southern Maryland from the Piscataway and Potobac nations were joined by European settlers beginning in 1634 with the establishment of St. Mary's City by Leonard Calvert. Successive waves of colonists took up tracts of land further inland from the Chesapeake Bay along the Patuxent and Potomac rivers and their tributaries. Charles County was formed in 1658 and Prince George's County was established in 1696. Settlement was confined to inland areas until road clearing began in the mid-eighteenth century as a result of the establishment of port towns and Maryland's rising population. Tobacco cultivation dominated the economic and social life of both Charles and Prince George's counties until the mid-nineteenth century when soil exhaustion necessitated agricultural diversification. The introduction of rail lines in 1873 linked Prince George's and Charles counties with the surrounding area, encouraging trade and settlement. While the suburbanization of Prince George's and Charles counties was assured by the widespread availability of the automobile in the mid-twentieth century, these southern Maryland counties have also retained their rural and agricultural character.

Between 1870 and 1940 the vernacular cottage style was typically built for Americans of modest means. Structures such as the dwelling on the Billingsley/Latimer Property are characterized by simple ornamentation and mass-produced components, such as door frames, moldings, sash and window

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Billingsley/Latimer Property

SURVEY NO.: CH-243 (PACS B7)

ADDRESS: 3785 Middletown Road, White Plains vicinity, Charles County

8. Significance (Continued)

units, and porch decoration. The development of post-Civil War machinery capable of producing large amounts of standardized housing elements, such as those found in cottages, contributed greatly to the development of the modern American housing industry. Designs for vernacular cottages were obtained from popular magazines, such as House Beautiful, or carpenter's and builder's journals, such as American Builder. A variety of front-gable, side-gable, cross-gable and hipped roof frame cottages were developed in the early to mid-twentieth century. Front-gable and hipped roof cottages are primarily one to one-and-a-half-stories tall, 3-bays wide and several rooms deep. Side-gable and cross-gable structures are usually two to two-and-a-half-stories tall, are typically two to three bays in width and vary from one to three rooms deep. They usually include a porch covered with a shed roof. Porches are supported by posts often containing machine-produced Victorian ornamentation. Some cottages feature ornamentation drawn from Craftsman style or Colonial Revival architecture (Gottfried and Jennings 1988, viii-xv).

NATIONAL REGISTER EVALUATION:

The Billingsley/Latimer Property is a side-gable cottage constructed in 1928. The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state or local history. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. The property is not eligible under Criterion C, as it is a common building type and its architectural integrity has been compromised through such alterations as aluminum siding and several additions. Finally, the property does not meet Criterion D, as it has no known potential to yield important information.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility Recommended _____ Eligibility Not Recommended X

Comments: _____

Reviewer, OPS: Suzanne Pickens Date: 07/21/1997

Reviewer, NR Program: [Signature] Date: 4/4/01

[Handwritten signature]

9. Major Bibliographical References Survey No.: CH-243 (PACS B7)

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name La Plata, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Caroline Hall

organization P.A.C. Spero & Company

date September 1996

street & number 40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412

telephone (410) 296-1635

city or town Baltimore

state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposed only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCP/DHCD
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
(410) 514-7600

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Billingsley/Latimer Property

SURVEY NO.: CH-243 (PACS B7)

ADDRESS: 3785 Middletown Road, White Plains vicinity, Charles County

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

Brown, Jack D., et al. Charles County, Maryland, A History. Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Retired Teachers Association. A Legacy: One- and Two-Room Schools in Charles County. La Plata: Dick Wildes Publishing Company, 1984.

Gottfried, Herbert and Jan Jennings. American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940. Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press, 1988.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown, and Paul Dennis Brown. The History of Charles County, Maryland. La Plata: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

Martenet, Simon J. Martenet's Map of Maryland, Atlas Edition. Baltimore, 1866.

Maryland Geological Survey. [1840] Map of Eastern Maryland with 1860 Additions. Copy on file at Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD.

voire, J. Richard. Homeplaces, Traditional Domestic Architecture of Charles County, Maryland. La Plata: Southern Maryland Studies Center, 1990.

Wearmouth, John M. Charles County Railroad. An unpublished paper on deposit at the Prince George's County Historical Society. August 1984.

Ibid. La Plata, Maryland, 1888-1988, 100 Years, The Heart of Charles County. La Plata: Town of La Plata, 1988.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

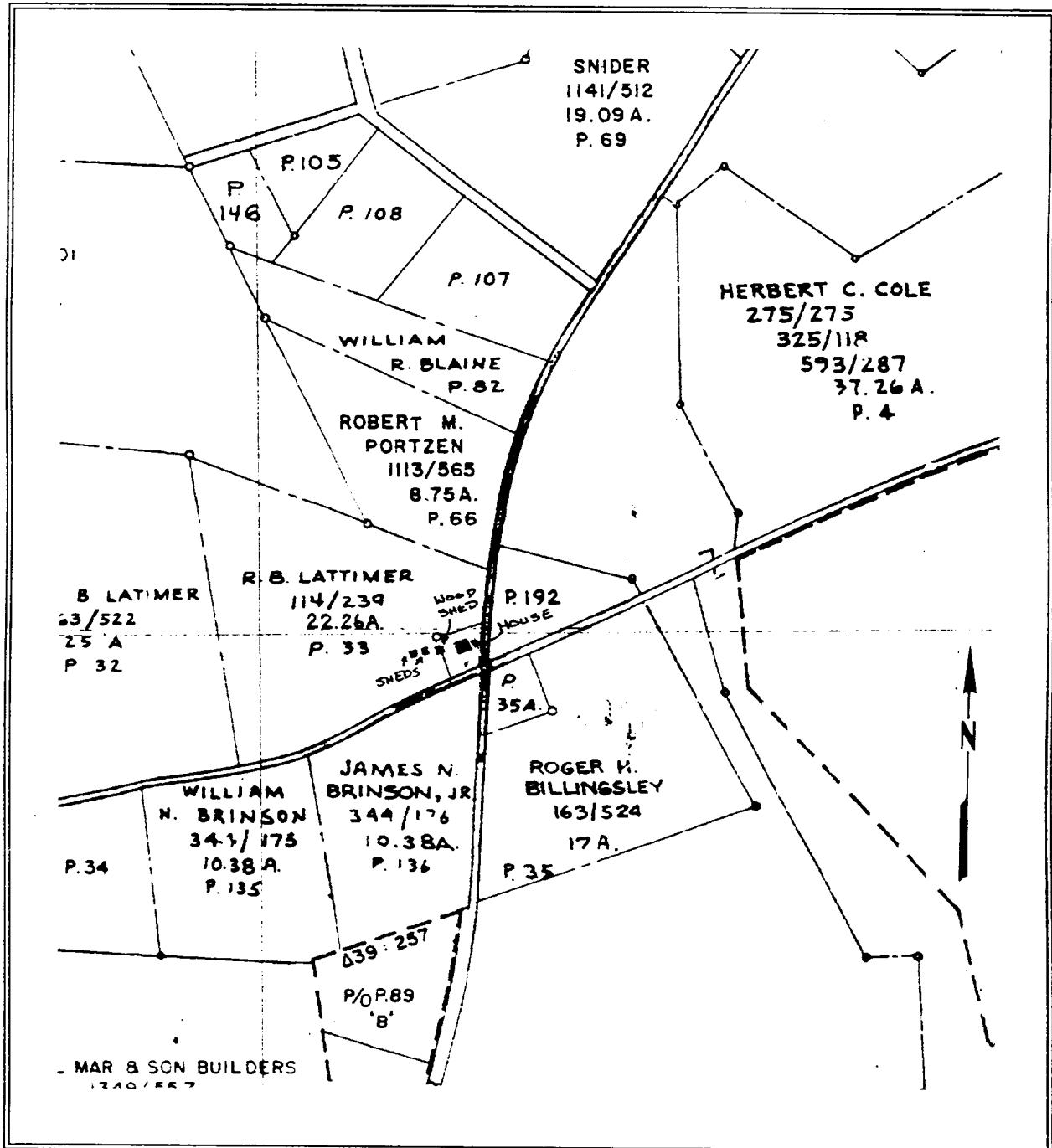
RESOURCE NAME: Billingsley/Latimer Property

SURVEY NO.: CH-243 (PACS B7)

ADDRESS: 3785 Middletown Road, White Plains vicinity, Charles County

10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Resource Sketch Map:



Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Billingsley/Latimer Property; CH-243 (PACS B7)
3785 Middletown Road, White Plains vicinity, Charles County

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form):

Buildings; Private Ownership; Public Acquisition - Not applicable; Occupied;
Not accessible; Private Residence

Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural):

Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Residence

Known Design Source (write none if unknown):

None

U.S. 301 South Corridor
Transportation Study

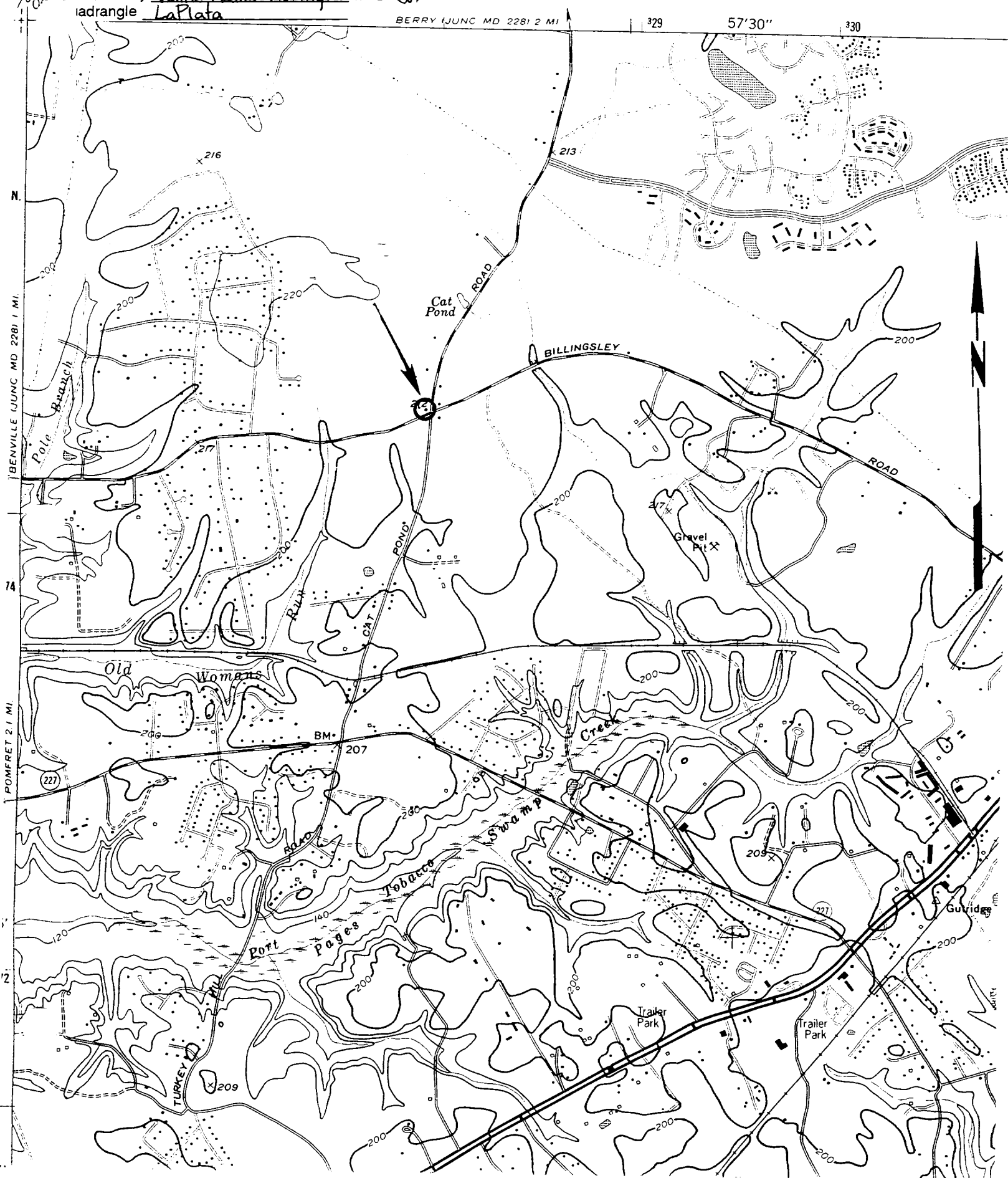
Survey # B7 CH-243

Property Name Billingsley/Lahmer Property

Town/County White Plains vicinity/Charles Co.

Adrange LaPlata

DEI



CH- 243

CH-243

Bullingsley

La Faver

Property



CH- 243

